CHURCH STATE COUNCIL

A Religious Liberty
Ministry of the Pacific
Union Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

February 1, 2021

Re: Covid-19 vaccines – potential religious objection claims

As anticipated we have started to receive a number of phone calls from church members wanting support for their objections to getting the COVID 19 Vaccination, based on what they claim is a religious objection. We have complied some information which we think will be helpful for you when dealing with this issue.

1. Please do inform church members that the teaching and policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is "pro" vaccine.

2. Do encourage people to receive the vaccine. We need to achieve a high percentage of immunization in order to achieve herd immunity.

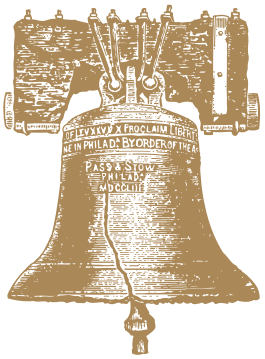
3. Religious objections are frequently framed in terms of the content of the vaccine, such as it contains fetal tissue. There is information widely available that the Covid-19 vaccines do not contain fetal issue:

4. We encourage those who screen these requests to ascertain the basis of one's religious objection. In many cases, the objection is not religious at all, but is based on health – the belief that the vaccine has a significant risk of harm.

5. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued guidelines that employers have a right to mandate vaccines.

6. We believe these mandates will be upheld in the courts. The Church State Council does not expect our litigation committee will approve filing any cases on behalf of those who refuse the vaccine and lose their jobs. Of course, individual church members are free to seek legal counsel on their own.

7. California law does not provide exemptions for school children from mandated vaccines, but as of now, there is no mandated covid-19 vaccine for school attendance. This may change.



Resources:

Seventh day Adventist Church statement on Vaccinations
https://www.adventist.org/articles/immunization/

North American Division Statement on COVID Vaccination
https://www.nadadventist.org/news/covid-19-vaccines-addressing-concerns-offering-counsel

Adventist Health – COVID 19 Vaccination
https://www.adventisthealth.org/coronavirus/vaccine/

COVID 19 – No Aborted Fetuses
https://factcheckni.org/articles/covid-19-vaccines-and-aborted-fetuses/